108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 55

Honoring General Bernard A. Schriever, United States Air Force (retired), for his dedication and service to the United States Air Force, for his essential service in the development of the United States ballistic missile program, and for his lifetime of work to enhance the security of the United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 25, 2003

Mr. STEARNS submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

---

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Honoring General Bernard A. Schriever, United States Air Force (retired), for his dedication and service to the United States Air Force, for his essential service in the development of the United States ballistic missile program, and for his lifetime of work to enhance the security of the United States.

Whereas the United States Air Force recognizes General Bernard A. Schriever, United States Air Force (retired), as the architect of the Nation's ballistic missile and military space program;

Whereas General Schriever began his military career in 1931 as an Army artillery officer, later transferring to the

Army Air Corps and attending flight school and flying 36 combat missions during World War II;

Whereas in 1943, General Schriever became chief of the Maintenance and Engineering Division, 5th Air Force Service Command, and then commander of the advance headquarters, Far East Air Service Command, which supported theater operations from bases in Hollandia, New Guinea, Leyte, Manila, and Okinawa;

Whereas General Schriever was promoted to the grade of colonel at the remarkably young age of 33;

Whereas following World War II, General Schriever was assigned to the position of Chief of the Scientific Liaison Section under the Deputy Chief of Staff for Material, Army Air Forces headquarters, and while in that post, introduced the development planning documents that linked ongoing research and development efforts with long-range military planning;

Whereas General Schriever's leadership and technological expertise were responsible for the creation of an operational intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM);

Whereas in 1954, the Air Force's highest priority was the development of the first intercontinental ballistic missile, the Atlas, and soon thereafter development of that missile became a top national priority under the Eisenhower administration to counter the Soviet nuclear threat;

Whereas at that time the Soviet Union had produced nuclear and thermonuclear bombs and was pursuing an ''aggressive rocket technology program'' culminating in the October 1957 launch and orbit of the Sputnik satellite;

Whereas General Schriever was assigned to head the Air Force's Western Development Division (later called the

Ballistic Missile Division), which was solely responsible for planning, programming, and developing the intercontinental ballistic missile;

Whereas the size and funding of the Western Development Division was larger than that of the Manhattan project;

Whereas the Air Force conducted the first successful test launch of an Atlas missile on December 17, 1957, and by 1963 the Strategic Air Command had deployed 13 Atlas missiles squadrons with 120 missiles on alert to meet the contemporary Soviet threat;

Whereas General Schriever oversaw the simultaneous development of the Atlas missile and the intermediate-range ballistic missile, Thor, which achieved an initial operating capability in 1959;

Whereas in April 1961 General Schriever was assigned command of the newly created Air Force Systems Command;

Whereas the more advanced Titan intercontinental ballistic missile reached initial operating capability by April 1962, and 10 Minuteman intercontinental ballistic missiles were placed in service in October 1962 in response to the Cuban Missile Crisis;

Whereas General Schriever's efforts produced, within eight years, four complete missile systems for the United States;

Whereas, by contrast, the F–102 fighter aircraft alone took 10 years to develop;

Whereas the Atlas missile is still used as a satellite launch vehicle;

Whereas Walter J. Boyne, former Director of the National Air and Space Museum of the Smithsonian Institution,

states ''Today's navigational, meteorological, intelligence, and communication satellites owe their existence to the work of Schriever and his team'';

Whereas General Schriever retired from the Air Force in the grade of general in 1966 after 33 years of service;

Whereas after retirement, General Schriever served as a member of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, the Defense Science Board, and the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization Advisory Committee; and

Whereas America's dominance in space today is due in large part to the leadership, talent, and selfless service of General Bernard A. Schriever: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress recognizes and honors General Bernard A. Schriever, United States Air Force (retired), for his dedication and service to the United States Air Force, for his essential service in the development of the United States ballistic missile program, and for his lifetime of work to enhance the security of the United States.

○